

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently amended): An image pickup apparatus, comprising:
an image pickup circuit which photoelectrically converts, into pixel signals, a light image formed through a lens;
~~a setting unit which sets at least a first image pickup mode in which the pixel signals are reduced by extracting a predetermined area from an image pickup area of said image pickup circuit and a second image pickup mode in which the pixel signals are obtained from a larger area than said predetermined area by reducing the pixel signals in different reducing method of said first mode; and~~
a controlling unit which controls to lengthen a focal length of said lens depending on a change from said first image pickup mode to said second image pickup mode,
wherein, said first image pickup mode reduces the pixel signals by extracting a predetermined area from an image pickup area of said image pickup circuit;
said second image pickup mode obtains the pixel signals from a larger area than said predetermined area by reducing the pixel signals in a different reducing method of said first mode, and
said controlling unit changes the focal length of said lens to prevent a photo-taking angle from varying depending on a change from said first image pickup mode to said second image pickup mode.

Claim 2 (Previously presented): An image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said setting unit further sets an image pickup mode for picking up a still image in which pixel signals are read out from whole area of said image pickup area.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Original): An image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image pickup mode is set according to an object an image of which is to be picked up.

Claim 5 (Original): An image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said setting controller sets the image pickup mode on the basis of evaluation values obtained from at least two distance measuring points.

Claim 6 (Original): An image processing system having a plurality of apparatuses communicatively interconnected, wherein at least one of said plurality of apparatuses has a function of an image pickup apparatus according to claim 1.

Claims 7-12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Currently amended): An image pickup method, comprising:
a photoelectric conversion step of photoelectrically converting, by an image pickup circuit, into pixel signals, a light image formed through a lens;
a setting step of setting at least a first image pickup mode ~~in which the pixel signals are reduced by extracting a predetermined area from an image pickup area of said image pickup circuit~~ and a second image pickup mode ~~in which the pixel signals are obtained from a larger area than said predetermined area by reducing the pixel signals in different reducing method of said first mode~~; and
a controlling step of controlling to lengthen a focal length of said lens depending on a change from said first image pickup mode to said second image pickup mode,

wherein, said first image pickup mode reduces the pixel signals by extracting a predetermined area from an image pickup area of said image pickup circuit;
said second image pickup mode obtains the pixel signals from a larger area than said predetermined area by reducing the pixel signals in a different reducing method of said first mode, and

said controlling step changes the focal length of said lens to prevent a photo-taking angle from varying depending on a change from said first image pickup mode to said second image pickup mode.

Claim 14-22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (Currently amended): A storage medium which stores therein, in a computer-readable manner, a processing program for executing a function of an image pickup apparatus having a photoelectric conversion circuit which photoelectrically converts, by an image pickup circuit, into pixel signals, a light image formed through a lens, said processing program having:

a setting code for setting at least a first image pickup mode ~~in which the pixel signals are reduced by extracting a predetermined area from an image pickup area of said image pickup circuit~~ and a second image pickup mode ~~in which the pixel signals are obtained from a larger area than said predetermined area by reducing the pixel signals in different reducing method of said first mode~~; and

a controlling code for controlling to lengthen a focal length of said lens depending on a change from said first image pickup mode to said second image pickup mode,
wherein, said first image pickup mode reduces the pixel signals by extracting a predetermined area from an image pickup area of said image pickup circuit;

said second image pickup mode obtains the pixel signals from a larger area than said predetermined area by reducing the pixel signals in a different reducing method of said first mode, and

said controlling code changes the focal length of said lens to prevent a photo-taking angle from varying depending on a change from said first image pickup mode to said second image pickup mode.

Claim 24 (Canceled).

Claims 25-26. (Canceled).

Claim 27. (Currently amended): An image pickup apparatus, comprising:
an image pickup circuit which photoelectrically converts, into pixel signals, a light image formed through a lens;
~~a setting unit which sets at least a first image pickup mode in which the pixel signals are reduced by extracting a predetermined area from an image pickup area of said image pickup circuit and a second image pickup mode in which the pixel signals are obtained from a larger area than said predetermined area by reducing the pixel signals in different reducing method of said first mode; and~~

a controlling unit which controls to shorten a focal length of said lens depending on a change from said second image pickup mode to said first image pickup mode

wherein, said first image pickup mode reduces the pixel signals by extracting a predetermined area from an image pickup area of said image pickup circuit;

said second image pickup mode obtains the pixel signals from a larger area than said predetermined area by reducing the pixel signals in a different reducing method of said first mode, and

said controlling unit changes the focal length of said lens to prevent a photo-taking angle from varying depending on a change from said second image pickup mode to said first image pickup mode.